

**David M. Ratcliffe**  
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Bir SC1500  
30 Ivan Allen, Jr. Boulevard NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
Tel 404 506 0855  
Fax 404 506 0856

220012



August 7, 2007

The Honorable Charles D. Nottingham  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
393 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 670

Dear Chairman Nottingham:

I am writing to nominate W. Paul Bowers, President of Southern Company Generation, a business unit of Southern Company, to the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee ("RETAC") recently established by the Surface Transportation Board ("STB").

We thank the STB for establishing the RETAC. Rail transportation of energy fuels is not just an important issue, it is an indispensable and increasingly challenging delivery requirement for our country. Reliable electric service is critical to public health and safety. Coal accounts for more than half of the electricity generated in the United States, and rail shipping is the primary means of transporting coal. As demand for electricity continues to grow, so does the need for the foresight and planning to reliably deliver electricity. We are pleased the STB has demonstrated a recognition of this need, not only in establishing the RETAC, but in its recent rulings as well.

Southern Company is the second-largest electric utility company in the country, based on generating more than 200 million megawatt hours of electricity in 2006. We serve 43 million customers through utility operating companies in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi. Southern Company operates more than 42,000 megawatts (MW) of electric generating capacity, of which over 22,000 MW is coal-fired. Our energy businesses also include a competitive generation company and an energy services business.

The Honorable Charles D. Nottingham  
Surface Transportation Board

August 9, 2007  
Page Two

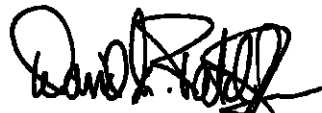
We are one of the largest coal customers in the United States. In 2006, we purchased more than 80 million tons of coal from ten different coal regions, including almost 30 million tons from the Powder River Basin. Shipping such large volumes of coal presents numerous constantly evolving challenges. We own the largest rail fleet used for coal delivery in the country, with over 16,000 rail cars. In addition, we work cooperatively with a number of major rail shippers. Cooperation with rail shippers is in the best interest of our company and our customers. Southern Company is not a member of any rail customer advocacy groups.

The STB has committed to include five representatives on the RETAC from electric utilities, including at least one rural electric cooperative and one State or municipally-owned utility. We hope that for these and all committee positions, the STB will choose representatives at a senior management level, with a broad perspective and experience in dealing with the complexity of fuel transportation issues that comes from operating electric generating facilities on a large scale.

As President of Southern Company Generation, a role in which he has served since 2001, Paul Bowers provides leadership to 6,000 employees with wide-ranging technical expertise in seven business functions. The management of all fuel related activities, such as procurement and delivery, is handled by the Fuel Services department of Southern Company Generation. In addition to fuel services, Mr. Bowers is responsible for the operation of 281 electric generating units, and generation planning and development to ensure future electric reliability.

Rail transportation is of such significance to our customers that we recommend our top executive with responsibility for the issue to serve on the RETAC. I am certain that the STB and the country will benefit greatly from the perspective that Paul Bowers' insight and experience enable him to provide.

Sincerely,



David M. Ratcliffe  
Chairman, President and CEO  
Southern Company